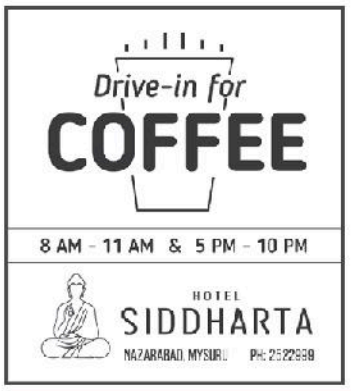

STAR OF MYSORE

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Helium cylinder blast

Balloon vendor killed, 6 injured

- Incident near Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace triggers shockwaves
- Deceased was preparing gas on his own: District Minister Dr. Mahadevappa

A person injured in the cylinder blast in front of Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace being wheeled on a stretcher to the ambulance last night.

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (MTY&BS)- In a shocking incident, one person was killed and six others, including three women and a minor girl, were injured after a portable cylinder used to fill balloons with helium gas exploded near the Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace last night.

The deceased has been identified as Saleem (40), a balloon vendor from Thopiya village in Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh.

He had arrived in the city about a fortnight ago and was staying at a lodge in Lashkar Mohalla along with fellow vendors from his native place. The group was eking out a livelihood by selling balloons at tourist locations, Police said.

According to a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Devaraja Police, the injured have been identified as Manjula (38), a flower vendor from Chamalapura Beedhi in Nanjangud; Lakshmi, wife of Rajesh, from Kamakshipalya in Bengaluru; Shehana Sabbir from Kolkata, West Bengal; Kotresh Beerappa Gutter, a KSRTC employee from Ranebennur in Haveri district; his relative Vedashree (15) and others. Two of the injured were treated as outpatients.

Among the injured, the condition of Manjula, who is undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at K.R. Hospital, is stated to be critical. Her brother Nagendra, speaking to mediapersons, said she had sustained severe injuries.

(See KILLED on page 6)

DC mulls ban on gas-filled balloons

Balloon blasts in 2018 and 2019 injured over 20 people, raising safety concerns

Lakshmikanth Reddy

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (RK&BCT)- The Mysuru District Administration is considering imposing a ban on balloon-filling using gas cylinders in the wake of the deadly cylinder blast near the Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace.

The activity is being viewed as highly hazardous, particularly in crowded public spaces, following a series of similar incidents in the past. Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy told *Star of Mysore* on Friday that the administration is discussing measures to prohibit the practice.

"We have seen how dangerous gas cylinders can be when used for filling balloons. Currently, there is no effective regulatory mechanism in place to control this activity or ensure public safety. We are therefore considering a ban, especially in areas with high population density, including city centres and other thickly populated locations," he said.

Past incidents

On Feb. 5, 2019, more than ten people, including Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, sustained minor injuries when balloons reportedly filled with helium, hydrogen or nitrogen exploded during the inauguration of a wrestling event at Suttur jatra. The explosion is suspected to have been triggered by heat from a lamp used during a *puja,* causing a chain reaction.

On March 23, 2018, at least 11 people, including six children, were injured in a nitrogen gas balloon explosion at Kaveripura in Srirangapatna taluk. The balloons had been prepared to welcome Congress president Rahul Gandhi. The blast occurred during a trial of the gas-filled balloons near a residential area.

Palace draws thousands but lacks emergency service

Public demand dedicated ambulance, fire engine and standard operating procedures

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (RK&BCT)- The Mysore Palace attracts thousands of visitors every day, and the streets surrounding the iconic monument are constantly abuzz with people, tourists, children, hawkers and small-time vendors selling various wares, including balloons filled using gas cylinders. The crowd swells significantly during weekends, festivals and the year-end holiday season.

However, despite the heavy footfall and a steady daily revenue running into lakhs of rupees, there is no dedicated ambulance or fire safety facility in place to handle emergencies.

(See PALACE on page 6)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Friday 26th December 2025

Free computer training for economically weak women

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (BS) - Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Mysuru, has organised a free three-month computer training and employment training programme for the economically weaker and educated unemployed women from Dec. 29.

The training will be provided in BPO, computer and communication skills, with the classes scheduled to be held from 10 am to 4 pm.

The candidates should have passed SSLC and should be in the age group of 18 to 35 years.

Documents related to their education, Aadhaar card, income certificate, BPL card, bank passbook and photo should be provided.

For details contact Samarthanam Trust, No. 676, New K-21, near Lakshmi theatre, Chamaraja Double Road, Agrahara, Mysuru-570004 or contact Mob: 63648-67818 or 90350-84948 or 90350-84949, according to a press release from Mysuru Divisional Head Shivaraju.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

SKILLS ARE COMMON, TALENT IS RARE: ***Skills and talent are considered the dynamic duo of achievement. While skills are an essential outcome of discipline and training, talent is that unteachable essence, an intuitive mastery that appears effortless. Anyone with perseverance can learn to code, paint, play the violin, or speak eloquently. Talent, however, belongs to a different realm. It is the spark that cannot be manufactured, a gift that sets one apart from the multitude. In today's competitive world, where technology can replicate most skills, the rarity of true talent becomes even more precious.***

In every sphere of life, from classrooms to corporate corridors, we hear the word "skills" repeated like a mantra. Communication skills, leadership skills, problem-solving skills — the list is endless. There are structured paths, tutorials, mentors and techniques for acquiring proficiency in almost any area and the assurance that hard work can compensate for natural limitations. A skilled worker builds reliability, efficiency and precision, all of which are essential for progress and success. Yet, skills alone seldom lead to greatness. They ensure competence, not brilliance.

In the fields of science and innovation, too, the difference is evident. Many engineers understand technology, but Steve Jobs combined design, emotion and functionality in a way no textbook could teach. His talent lay in perceiving the intersection of art and technology. While thousands could build a phone, only Jobs could envision the iPhone.

In cricket, countless players practise the same techniques, yet Sachin Tendulkar's timing, anticipation and instinct set him apart. His skill was honed through effort, but his talent — his ability to "see" the ball a split second earlier than others was nature's gift. The same holds for Lionel Messi, the iconic football player, whose footwork and vision seem to transcend coaching manuals.

When people rely too much on natural talent, they may limit their growth and become victims of the 'talent trap'. For instance, a naturally artistic person might avoid structured learning — such as composition, anatomy or design principles — because their talent earned them praise early. Their work would plateau with time, while their peers who studied fundamentals would evolve into sophisticated professionals.

Thus, the world needs both skilled individuals to keep it functioning and talented ones to change the ordinary into the extraordinary. Talent, combined with soft skills such as empathy, collaboration, communication and patience, builds not only a career but also a character that inspires.

— Jayanthi Chandrasekaran in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

Annual tea table flipping contest

Tokyo: A shopping mall in Japan's Iwata Prefecture hosted the 12th annual World Chabudai-Gaeshi Tournament, an offbeat competition where participants try to flip a small tea table as far as possible.

The premise is pretty simple: anyone can sign up for the competition, from young children to the elderly, and the goal is to flip the small wooden tea table as hard as possible to send the fake food on top of it flying as far as possible. The winner is judged not by how far they flip the table, but how far a plastic fish set on top of it travels. The silly contest was inspired by the Japanese phrase "chabudai gaeshi" which literally means "upending the tea table" in anger or frustration, and is used to figuratively describe an outburst and upheaval.

Italy's intriguing optical illusions

Milan: 44-year-old Caiffa, who also goes by 'Cheone', paints most of his impressive artworks in his hometown of Nerviano, near Milan. Most of his street art projects not only integrate perfectly with their surroundings, but they also have this uncanny depth to them that often fools passers-by.

Having grown up around art and artists in Gallipoli, Leece, Cosimo started painting on canvas at a very young age, but as soon as he discovered graffiti, he knew that was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. He taught himself the 3D street art technique, and he has been using it for years to great effect to turn bland, boring urban spaces into outdoor works of art.

Cosimo usually starts by digitally creating the image he wants to paint, and then using graffiti cans to paint it on the surface of his choice. Some of his art pieces are so realistic that, when viewed from just the right angle, their protagonists appear to be coming out of the wall.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Angiography guides treatment decisions

Coronary angiography is an imaging test that maps heart arteries. It helps doctors choose the right treatment — medication, stenting, or surgery.

By Dr. C.B. Keshavamurthy - Senior Consultant – Interventional Cardiology, Manipal Hospitals, Mysuru

manipalhospitals LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Wins overall championship

Swimmers of city's Marlin Aquatic Centre won overall championship and individual championships at the recently held 2nd State-level Non-Medallist Swim Meet-2025 at Shivamogga. The Individual Champions from Marlin Aquatic Centre are: M.J. Kashvi Kaveramma, Mihir Kalicharan, I.C. Bhuvainika, Punarni P. Javali and Nakshath Gowda. They are being trained by Head Coach K.S. Mahesha.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **123.90 feet**	Today's level **2,275.75 feet**	Today's level **2,827.89 feet**
Last year's level **124.80 feet**	Last year's level **2,280.06 feet**	Last year's level **2,833.93 feet**
Yesterday's level **123.92 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,275.71 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,827.77 feet**
Today's Inflow **2,169 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **519 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **303 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **2,295 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *Koalas spend most of their time sitting in eucalyptus trees, so it's no surprise that some begin to take on the aroma. Typically, young koalas and female koalas give off a slight eucalyptus scent, which also doubles as a natural insect repellent. Meanwhile, adult male koalas have a stronger, muskier odour.*
- *An infant koala is called a joey, just like a baby kangaroo. When a koala joey is born, they are the size of a peanut and even without any sight or hearing ability, they're able to use their natural instincts to immediately climb up to their mother's pouch. Once they reach the pouch, they will remain there for the next six months while they grow and develop.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Sam: *Doctor, I am having severe chest pain.*
Doctor: *Do you smoke?*
Sam: *Once in a way.*
Doctor: *That is the reason.*
Sam: *Then, if I smoke continuously will I become better?!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 89.81
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 121.21
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 24.45
1 Euro	= Rs. 105.86

VOICE OF THE READER

Traffic violations and fine concession policy

Sir,

I wish to draw attention to the increasing traffic violations in Mysuru, which continue to rise despite heavy fines and extensive camera surveillance.

Growing traffic congestion and indiscipline are causing considerable hardship to citizens, while habitual violators remain largely undeterred.

The policy of granting substantial concessions on traffic fines may weaken their deterrent effect.

Though introduced for relief or administrative purposes, it conveys that violations can be resolved by paying a reduced fine, thereby undermining the seriousness of traffic laws and encouraging repeat offences.

The increasing involvement of underage offenders further highlights gaps in enforcement and accountability.

There is an urgent need to shift from revenue-oriented enforcement to corrective and preventive measures.

These may include regulated stricter action against repeat offenders, mandatory road safety education, community service and accountability of parents and vehicle owners in cases involving minors.

Improved traffic engineering measures, such as better signal synchronisation, strict lane enforcement, designated parking zones, encouragement of public transport and regular awareness campaigns on road discipline, are also essential to ease congestion and improve safety.

Addressing traffic density and promoting road sense at this stage is critical to prevent Mysuru from facing the severe traffic challenges experienced by larger cities. I request the authorities to consider these concerns and measures in the larger public interest.

—Dr. G. Rathnakar
Mysuru
24.12.2025

Madhuri Thathachari receives Rotary Margadarshak Award

Madhuri Thathachari, who was honoured with Rotary Margadarshak Award, seen with Dr. Laksmi, Keshav Kanchan, Dr. G.L. Shekar, Latha Sachidanandan, H.R. Keshav, Vikram Dutta, Sunil Baliga, Dr. Sachidanandan, Harish, M.K. Mukesh and Thenmozhi Perumal.

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Rotary Ivory City Margadarshak Award was conferred on Madhuri Thathachari, Managing Trustee, Bhramara Trust, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to various community services.

Immediate Past District Governor Rtn. Vikram Dutta presented the award at Rotary Ivory City Mysuru's Charter Nite and Decennial celebrations recently.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Dutta said that over the past many years, Madhuri Thathachari, a multi-faceted personality, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the cause of education and volunteered to develop and conduct programmes for re-educating old people in Convalescent Homes. She has patronised several institutions and devoted to service of the downtrodden.

Her charity work has not only addressed critical social needs but also inspired a new generation of volunteers to engage in community outreach, he added.

President of Rotary Ivory City Rtn. Keshav Kanchan said the Club deems it an honour to confer "Rotary Ivory City Mysuru Margadarshak Award" on Madhuri Thathachari, a distinguished educationist, scientist, researcher and social worker.

Past District Governor Rtn. H.R. Keshav, Rotarians Sunil Baliga, Dr. Sachidanandan, Dr. G.L. Shekar and Harish were present on the occasion. M.K. Mukesh, Hon. Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

Mysurean wins Literary Global Book Award for Art

Ganesh Shenoy

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Ganesh K. Shenoy, author and artist, has won the 2025 Literary Global Book Award in the Non-fiction - Art category for his book 'Kinetic Pointillism: An Emerging Art Movement.'

The book previously earned recognition in the Golden Book of World Records in 2023 under the "First" category. It explores kinetic pointillism, an evolving art movement founded by legendary artist Robert Ottesen, which has grown in popularity across age groups. It is available for free download from online bookstores.

Hailing from Mysuru, Shenoy has been working and residing in Qatar since 2007. His wife, Arti Shenoy, is from Mysuru and his daughter Dr. Anisha Shenoy works at JSS Medical College, Mysuru. An award-winning author, his notable works include 'Seginus: The Eternal Time Traveller' and 'Shadows of Desire & 152 Drabbles.'

He integrates theosophy and mysticism into his creative work and currently serves as HR Head at Teyseer Services Company in Qatar.

Free health check-up camp tomorrow

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Virat Vishwa Global Foundation has organised a free health check-up camp for Vishwakarma community members at Town Hall in city at 9 am tomorrow (Dec. 27).

Announcing this at a press meet here yesterday, Foundation's C.A. Nagarajachar said that the camp has been organised in association with Narayana Multi-Speciality Hospital and all Vishwakarma Associations of Mysuru district. He appealed community members to make good use of this mega camp.

Free medicines will be given for community members suffering from certain health conditions, he said adding that those taking part in the camp must get tokens from their nearest community leaders. For details, contact Mob: 94487-73981.

The community leaders Rajesh, Chandru Vishwakarma, Jayakumar and Raju Karya were present at the press meet.

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Noopura Shree Award conferred on Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy

Mysuru, Dec. 26- International danseuse Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy, who is also the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, was conferred Noopura Shree Prashasthi (Award) for her yeomen service to Bharatanatyam during the Smt. K. Vanajakshamma Memorial 30th Nritya Aradhana in memory of *Natyacharya* Prof. K. Ramamurthy Rao's mother at a function held at Ganabharathi's auditorium in Kuvempunagar recently under the auspices of Noopura Kalavidaru Samskrutika Trust, Mysuru.

The event concluded with Bharatanatyam recital by Vid. K.R. Vishwadeep, son and disciple of Prof. Ramamurthy Rao.

Noopura Shree awardee Dr. Vasundhara seen with (from left) senior journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar (who was also felicitated for receiving Rajyotsava Award from Karnataka Government), R. Vasudev Bhat, Hon. Secretary of BSS Vidyodaya, Prof. Ramamurthy Rao and Lalitha Rao.

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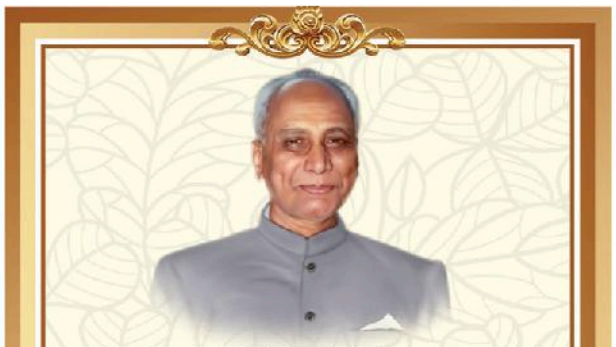

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His legacy remains in the values he passed on
and the respect he earned.

NEWS BRIEFS

Release of 70 books tomorrow

Veteran writer and former Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Chairman Dr. Pradhan Gurudatt will release as many as 70 books published by Sapna Book House at a programme to be held at Sapna Book House on Narayana Shastri Road tomorrow (Dec. 27) at 10 am. Scholar Dr. T.V. Venkatachala Shastry will preside. District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal will be present. For details, contact Ph: 0821-4004499, according to a press release.

'Sharadotsava' Annual Day

'Sharadotsava-2025', the annual day celebration of the city's Sri Jayachamarajendra PU College (Sharada Vidya Mandir), will be held at Kalamandira on Hunsur Road at 9.30 am tomorrow (Dec. 27). Senior Civil Judge K.K. Amarnath will be the chief guest. Meritorious students of the college who scored high marks in II PUC (2024-25) will be felicitated on the occasion. For details, call Ph: 0821-2488442 or Mob: 63642-81590, according to a press release.

Coaching for teacher exam

The city's Netaji Education Foundation is conducting a 3-month coaching class for HSTR (High School Teacher Recruitment) written exam (appointment of teachers to High School grades) and GPSTR (Graduate Primary School Teacher Recruitment) exam (for classes 6 to 8), starting from tomorrow (Dec. 27), at the Foundation office located on Krishna Vilas Road, opposite Avila Convent, near Jaganmohan Palace. For registration and details, those interested may contact Mob: 63641-16745 or 94807-09611, according to a press release.

Road accident victim dies

Mysuru, Dec. 26- An unidentified man, who was injured in a road accident near Dadadahalli-Mysuru Road on Nov. 27 and was being treated at Mysuru Trauma Care Centre, succumbed to injuries on Dec. 21 at 9.23 pm, as treatment proved futile.

The deceased, aged around 55 years, was 168 cm tall, had black and grey hair, was oval faced and dark complexioned.

Kith and kin of the deceased, if any, may contact Mysuru South Police Station on Ph: 0821-2444955 or 2436600 or 22212108.

Glanders equine disease scare

598 blood samples sent for lab testing

Horse owners advised to halt inter-district sale, movement

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (MTY&BCT)- The death of a two-year-old horse at Mysore Race Club (MRC) after contracting the deadly Glanders — a zoonotic bacterial disease — has prompted animal health authorities to collect and dispatch 598 blood samples, including those from three donkeys and 595 horses, to National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) in Hisar, Haryana, for testing.

The incident has raised alarm across race clubs in Mysuru, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, where horses have succumbed to the same infection.

Veterinary officials have stepped up strict surveillance to prevent the bacteria from spreading to other horses and to safeguard caretakers and owners from potential exposure.

Mysuru's first case a decade ago

Glanders is a fatal bacterial disease that affects only equine species — horses, donkeys and mules. As the infection spreads through direct contact, strict instructions have been issued to avoid congregating horses. The last known case in Mysuru was reported about a decade ago near Kukkarahalli Lake tonga stand, with no cases recorded since then.

In accordance with Central Government guidelines, blood samples have been collected from horses across city.

These include 477 from the MRC, 63 from Mounted Police unit, three from the royal family's riding school at Bogadi, one from the People For Animals (PFA) shelter, three donkeys and 52 tonga-cart horses.

Samples were collected under the supervision of Dr. M. P. Poornananda, Chief Veterinary Officer (Administration), Taluk Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department and sent to NRCE, Haryana.

The institute has initiated investigations to trace the source of the outbreak and to determine how the infection spread to horses in Mysuru, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Risk of transmission

Meanwhile, officials have warned horse owners and tonga-cart operators against bringing in horses from outside the district or selling local horses elsewhere, as such movements could heighten the risk of transmission.

Awareness drives have been conducted at tong stands near the Sub-Urban Bus Stand, Kukkarahalli Lake, Agrahara, Nanjumalige and the Old RMC Circle in city.

Given the potential risk of transmission to humans, the Mysore Race Club has been temporarily shut racing.

Blood samples have been collected from all horses within a two-kilometre radius and sent to the laboratory every 21 days for testing. In addition, samples were taken from all horses within the two-kilometre zone and from 25 percent of the horses located between two and ten kilometres.

For three months, staff from the Animal Husbandry Department will conduct strict surveillance, after which officials will decide whether the area can be declared disease-free.

Only if all three tests return negative will NRCE certify the area as disease-free, following which the Mysuru district administration will lift restrictions on the Race Club.

A Veterinary Officer collecting blood sample of a horse to be sent for Lab tests.

Peak season blues for tonga operators

December, the peak tourist season in Mysuru, usually draws large numbers of visitors eager to experience the city's Christmas and New Year attractions, with tonga-cart rides around the Mysore Palace being a major draw.

However, the outbreak of the Glanders infection has severely affected tonga-cart operations, dealing a blow to tourism and hitting the livelihoods of tonga operators hard, as many have lost their primary source of income during the crucial holiday season.

Massive testing drive

Blood samples from 598 equines, including three donkeys, have been collected and sent for laboratory analysis. Awareness has been created among tong-cart operators and horse owners, who have been advised to immediately report symptoms such as high fever, yellowish nasal discharge or nodules with ulcers on the skin. Strict surveillance is being maintained across the city. Glanders affects only equine species and poses no threat to cattle or dairy farming.

— Dr. M. P. Poornananda,
Chief Veterinary Officer (Administration)

Obituary

N.M. Prakash

Mysuru, Dec. 26- N.M. Prakash (65), a retired Executive Engineer of KUWSSB and a resident of Anandnagar in the city, passed away here yesterday. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter, son-in-law & a host of relatives & friends. Last rites were held at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage this afternoon.

Kusuma

Kusuma (46), wife of Gopal and a resident of Vijayanagar Railway Layout, passed away here yesterday. She leaves behind her husband, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Chirashantidhama in Gokulam yesterday evening.

Nagaraju

Nanjangud: Nagaraju (60), a retired SBI employee and a resident of Srirampura, passed away here yesterday. He leaves behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives & friends.

Last rites were performed at Srirampura burial grounds in the town this afternoon.

Major upgrade for city's two heritage colleges

Additional building for Maharani's Women's Science College, new hostel for Maharani's Science and Arts College

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (RK&BCT)- Major educational infrastructure projects have taken off in Mysuru city with the commencement of construction of two key facilities — an additional building for Maharani's Women's Science College and a new hostel for Maharani's Science and Arts College near Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa (Metropole) Circle.

The projects were necessitated by the dilapidated condition of the existing hostel and the acute shortage of student rooms in the heritage Science College building.

Responding to these concerns, Chamraja MLA K. Harishgowda prevailed upon the Government to sanction funds for the new constructions. The Department of Higher Education subsequently entrusted the works to the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB).

Following a global tender process, the contract was awarded to Star Infratech Company. The estimated cost of the hostel building is Rs. 116 crore, while the new Science College building is pegged at Rs. 54 crore. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah laid the foundation stone for both projects on Oct. 24, 2024.

G+5 structure for 1,400 students

The old hostel building adjoining JLB Road near Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle has been demolished to make way for a new G+5 structure comprising four towers, spread over 21,758 square metres.

The new hostel will accommodate 1,400 students and will have 354 rooms, two kitchens, two dining halls and a 250 KLD (kilolitre per day) sewage treatment plant.

Maharani's Science and Arts College design.

It will also be equipped with CCTV surveillance, parking facilities, a compound wall, rainwater harvesting tanks, fire safety systems and water tanks with a capacity of three lakh litres.

In addition, the building will feature 12 lifts, a solar water heating system and complete furniture, ensuring modern amenities for student residents.

9,292 square metre structure

The new extension of Maharani's Women's Science College is being constructed on an area of 9,292 square metres as a G+3 structure.

The building will house 20 classrooms, 10 laboratories, four seminar halls, four multipurpose rooms, a library and two lifts, besides a compound wall.

Designed in a traditional architectural style, the project is expected to be completed within two years, according to Ashwin, Executive Engineer of Karnataka Housing Board.

Together, the two projects mark a significant step towards strengthening Mysuru's higher education infrastructure, promising safer accommodation and modern learning facilities for thousands of students, while maintaining a balance between heritage-sensitive design and contemporary development.

Maharani's Science and Arts College Hostel design.

Bridges on Highway get river name signages

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (AG&BCT)- Signboards displaying river names have finally been installed on bridges built across rivers along the 119-km Mysuru–Bengaluru Highway (NH-275), enhancing commuter awareness and geographical identification.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) installed the signboards as part of a commuter-friendly initiative on elevated bridges spanning various water bodies along the highway.

On Aug. 12, 2025, *Star of Mysore* had highlighted the issue in a report titled 'Bridges on Mysuru–Bengaluru Highway lack river name signages', pointing out that none of the rivers crossed by the highway were identified through signboards, despite the route traversing several major and minor rivers.

Though the highway, which was opened to traffic in March 2023, prominently displays destination and place-name boards, it had omitted the names of the rivers it crosses.

Travelling from Mysuru towards Bengaluru, the highway first passes Paschimavahini, the confluence (Sangama) of the River Cauvery at Srirangapatna. It then crosses the main River Cauvery within Srirangapatna town limits, followed by the Lokapavani River on the outskirts of the town and later the Shimsha River.

The absence of river name signages had drawn concern from travellers and residents, who consider them essential for geographical reference, cultural recognition and educational awareness.

Responding to these concerns, NHAI Project Director Milind Wabale has initiated the installation of river name signboards on bridges along the highway.

Mega Cold Storage Unit to come up at APMC Yard

Mysuru, Dec. 26- In a boon to the farming community, a farmer friendly mega Cold Storage Unit is coming up in APMC (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) yard at Bandipalya on Mysuru-Nanjangud Road.

This cold storage will help the farmers to store their produce whenever crop prices crash and until the price shoots up. This facility will also help the farmers to store their produce or perishable vegetables, fruits and other grains or commodities, for a long period without any deterioration.

The Unit is funded by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), which has released Rs. 13 crore for the project. The Unit is coming up in a one-acre area in APMC Yard premises. The contractor, who has been awarded the tender for construction, has been asked to complete all works within a year and hand it over to the APMC. The Unit is a four-storeyed structure, including the ground floor.

Once completed, this mega Cold Storage Unit would have the capacity to store 3,750 metric tonnes of agricultural produce, which include food grains, millets, cereals, cash crops, commercial crops, vegetables, fruits and other perishable commodities.

At present, the APMC is witnessing transaction of 250-300 tons of grains, with traders from Tamil Nadu and Kerala forming a major chunk of buyers. Overall, it can be said that the mega storage which was an urgent necessity for farmers of the region, comes as a boon to them.

APMC Superintendent N.B. Bharathkumar said that the Cold Storage Unit is coming up at a cost of Rs. 13 crore and would be constructed in a year. The unit will be of great help to farmers, especially to vegetable and fruit growers as they are perishable items, he said adding that the unit would also benefit traders, buyers and sellers of food grains.

Deceased was preparing gas on his own: District Minister

Mysuru, Dec.26 (MTY&BS)- As the investigation into explosion caused by the blast of Helium gas cylinder of a balloon vendor outside Mysore Palace, that claimed the life of a balloon vendor is on, the nature of gas involved in the blast has triggered a suspicion.

According to preliminary information, the gas was prepared by the deceased, who is also accused in the case, on his own.

Social Welfare and District In-charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa visited K.R. Hospital in the city this afternoon and enquired the health of two persons, who are undergoing treatment.

Reacting to a media query, about the source of gas, Dr. Mahadevappa, as told by City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar said, the gas that caused the blast, was prepared by deceased Saleem by mixing a concoction of powder. However, the incident was purely accidental, with no ulterior motive behind the blast. The deceased was into selling various items as per tourist season. Moreover, he had come to the city, along with his family members, who were regularly camping at tourist spots across the State. The deceased was previously selling ice candy, he added.

District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa enquiring the health condition of an injured at K.R. Hospital this afternoon as DC Lakshmikanth Reddy, MMC&RI Dean Dr. K.R. Dakshayani and others look on.

Among the injured persons, the condition of Manjula and Lakshmi is critical. The Government will be bearing medical expenditure of all the injured persons, the Minister assured.

When media persons asked about the possibility of National Investigation Agency (NIA) probing into the incident, the Minister clarified that, whenever any explosions occur, the NIA takes over the probe as per protocol. So far, there is no information as such, about NIA probe.

Meanwhile, the body of Saleem has been kept in freezer of the mortuary attached to K.R. Hospital, awaiting autopsy.

Deputy Commisioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, Dean and Director of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC and RI) Dr. K.R. Dakshayani, Medical Superintendent of K.R. Hospital Dr. H.P. Shobha, HoD Surgery Dr. S. Chandrashekar and Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr. Nayaz Pasha were present.

Balloon vendor killed, 6 injured

(Continued from page 1)

Ranjitha, the wife of Vinod Kumar and a resident of Belavadi, who was also injured in the blast, is undergoing treatment at JSS Hospital. Her six-year-old son, Nihal suffered swelling on his lips after being hit by the impact of the explosion.

Deceased Saleem

The incident

The incident occurred at around 8.30 pm, when the Palace area was teeming with visitors and tourists. A flower show organised as part of the Winter Festival and a musical night had drawn large crowds, while the Christmas holidays further added to the rush.

Saleem was reportedly selling balloons on the barricaded footpath near the Jayamarthanda Gate on the Bengaluru–Nilgiri Road.

The stretch was heavily congested with vehicular and pedestrian traffic, with the Dasara Exhibition Grounds located opposite the Palace adding to the crowd.

While Saleem was filling gas into balloons, the cylinder exploded, ripping apart his body and killing him on the spot. Dismembered body parts were found strewn within a radius of about 10 feet.

Kotresh *Manjula* *Shehana*

Mangled bicycle

Saleem's bicycle, which he used to sell balloons, was mangled in the blast. Broken pieces of the cylinder, a bag of balloons, his kerchief and footwear were found scattered at the site, reflecting the intensity of the explosion. Lakshmi and another woman who were passing by bore the brunt of the blast. Two children accompanying Lakshmi narrowly escaped unhurt. Several injured persons were seen lying in pools of blood, with severe injuries, exposing the brutality of the explosion.

The sound of the blast was reportedly heard in nearby localities, prompting panic among residents, some of whom initially suspected a bomb explosion.

Delay in ambulance

Eyewitnesses complained of a delay in the arrival of ambulances. One injured woman was shifted to hospital in a Police Sanjeevini vehicle.

Another critically injured woman was transported in a private ambulance at around 8.54 p.m., which reportedly lacked oxygen support. The body of the deceased was shifted to the mortuary of K.R. Hospital in a '108' ambulance at around 9.15 pm.

Yogesh, a footpath vendor, and autorickshaw drivers Suhaas and Ravikiran, who assisted the Police in rescuing and shifting the injured, recalled the incident in trembling voices. Sniffer dogs, forensic experts and a Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) team were pressed into service.

Explosive Act

Based on a complaint lodged by injured Kotresh, the Devaraja Police registered an FIR against the deceased Saleem under Sections 106 (causing death by rash or negligent act), 125(a) and 125(b) (acts endangering life) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 9B(1)(b) of the Explosives Act, 1884.

DC G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, DCP (Law and Order) R.N. Bindu Mani, DCP (Crime and Traffic) K.S. Sundar Raj, ACP (Traffic) Shivashankar and other senior officials visited the spot.

HM seeks report

Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru this morning, Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar said he had sought a detailed report from the Mysuru City Police regarding the blast.

Palace draws thousands but lacks emergency service

The scene of blast outside Jayamarthanda Gate barricaded by city Police.

(Continued from page 1)

This glaring gap was exposed on the night of Dec. 25, when a balloon gas-filling cylinder exploded in front of the Palace.

Given the volume of visitors, citizens stressed that a permanently stationed ambulance and fire extinguishers are an absolute necessity. Following the blast at around 8.30 pm, the emergency response was delayed.

At 8.50 pm, one injured person was shifted in a PCR vehicle. A private ambulance arrived at 8.54 pm, but it lacked basic emergency equipment, including oxygen support. A woman with severe abdominal injuries and heavy bleeding was transported in this vehicle.

An '108' ambulance arrived only at 9.15 pm, by which time it was used to transport the body of the balloon vendor who had succumbed to injuries.

Residents expressed strong dissatisfaction over the delayed response, pointing out that the accident occurred in the heart of the city, right in front of the Palace.

They said the incident underscored the urgent need for the Mysore Palace Board to station a dedicated ambulance, fire extinguishers and trained emergency staff on the premises. The Board must act immediately and put standard operating procedures in place to prevent such lapses in the future, citizens demanded.

Series of tragedies points to lapses in safety monitoring

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (PM&BCT)- Last night's accident in front of the Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace, on the Bengaluru-Nilgiri Road, turned into a scene of sheer horror when a gas cylinder used for inflating balloons exploded, leaving the area drenched in blood and underscoring the gruesome nature of the tragedy.

The dismembered remains of the deceased, strewn across the spot like scattered pieces of flesh, bore chilling testimony to the ferocity of the blast. Blood was seen flowing across the road, while the injured victims lay writhing in pain, shocking onlookers and tourists alike.

The explosion was so loud that many mistook it for a bomb blast. The sound was reportedly heard as far as K.R. Circle, Ittigegud and Shankara Mutt Road. While some initially assumed it was firecrackers, panic spread rapidly once news of the incident became clear.

Eyewitnesses alleged that negligence by the City Police and the Mysore City Corporation (MCC) was responsible for the tragedy. They pointed out that despite repeated accidents and crimes in the city, effective safety monitoring remains absent.

A large crowd

Yesterday, Mysuru witnessed an unusually heavy crowd due to Christmas celebrations, cultural programmes and the ongoing Winter Festival Flower Show at the Palace premises, in addition to the Dasara Exhibition.

In such circumstances, citizens questioned why strict safety checks were not enforced in public spaces crowded with vendors and visitors.

Residents raised serious concerns over the unchecked proliferation of fast-food stalls and roadside vendors across the city. "Are the gas cylinders they use safe? Is food prepared hygienically? Is there any inspection at all?" asked residents, alleging that safety norms are routinely ignored.

Residents seek accountability

Anger at the site was palpable, with citizens demanding immediate accountability and stricter enforcement. Many remarked that Mysuru is increasingly being described as a 'death trap', citing a disturbing series of recent incidents.

On Oct. 2, a four-year-old child suffered severe burns after boiling oil from a fast-food stall spilt near Maruti Circle in N.R. Mohalla. The child later succumbed to injuries on Oct. 4, sparking public outrage over the lack of inspections of roadside eateries.

The same month, the area near Doddakere Maidan witnessed two brutal murders within three days. On Oct. 7, a man was hacked to death in broad daylight near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds. Barely a day later, a young girl from a poor family, who had come to sell balloons, was raped and murdered in the same vicinity — incidents that deeply shook the city.

Residents recalled these tragedies and strongly criticised the administration, stating that the repeated accidents and crimes reflect a complete failure to ensure public safety.

They also expressed concern over the growing menace of drug supply and addiction, warning that the city is sliding into a wider social crisis unless authorities act with urgency and responsibility.

Unsafe LPG use by roadside vendors comes into focus

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (RK&BCT)- The balloon gas-filling cylinder blast in front of the Jayamarthanda Gate of Mysore Palace has once again drawn attention to unsafe practices followed by roadside food vendors who use LPG cylinders to cook food in public spaces.

Many such vendors neither follow safety instructions nor are fully aware of the dangers involved.

Street food stalls have mushroomed in several parts of the city, dominating stretches such as the road near the Vijayanagar Water Tank, where more than 50 food stalls operate between 6 pm and 11 pm; Lalitha Mahal Road near the Arch Gate and the area behind Marimallappa's College, close to Maharani's Women's Junior College.

In addition, hundreds of footpath eateries across the city cook food using LPG cylinders on pavements, openly flouting safety norms and civic regulations.

Public safety often takes a back seat, and even when the District Administration, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) or the Police attempt enforcement, pressure from elected representatives frequently intervenes, shielding vendors from eviction or penal action.

Compounding the issue is the steady closure of established hotels, many of which are unable to sustain operations. More than 150 hotels have reportedly shut down in recent years, with hoteliers citing the unchecked proliferation of unauthorised footpath eateries as a major challenge. They allege that politicians, municipal officials and even the police extend protection to such vendors, often for personal gain.

While street vendors are also required to comply with rules and regulations, enforcement remains weak. In contrast, licensed hotels face mounting operational costs, straining the hospitality sector, leaving many hoteliers reluctant to speak out.

When *Star of Mysore* drew the attention of Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy to the growing menace, he admitted that the administration has so far been unable to rein in the vendors.

"I am aware of the issue, having served earlier as the MCC Commissioner. I will convene a meeting of elected representatives and footpath vendor representatives soon and issue clear-cut directions, as public safety must be the top priority," he said.

Temple to distribute two lakh laddus to devotees on Jan. 1

Thespian late Dr. Rajkumar's daughter Lakshmi and son-in-law S.A. Govind Raj** (fourth from right) **visited Sri Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple at Vijayanagar II Stage in city this morning, ahead of laddu distribution on New Year's Day. Also seen are Temple Founder Prof. Bhashyam Swamiji and Administrator Srinivasan.

Mysuru, Dec. 26 (GA&VNS)- Sri Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple in Vijayanagar will be distributing two lakh laddus to devotees visiting the Temple on Jan. 1.

Addressing the media persons at the temple premises, this morning, Prof. Bhashyam Swamiji, Founder of Sri Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple, said that preparations are underway to distribute two lakh laddus with a total of 135 cooks working at the temple premises from Dec. 20 to prepare laddus for devotees.

"We are preparing 10,000 laddus weighing 2 kgs each, along with two lakh laddus weighing 150 grams each for the occasion. The laddus are made using 100 kgs of gram flour (kadle hittu), 10,000 litres of edible oil, 200 kg sugar, 500 kg cashew, 500 kg raisins, 250 kg badam, 1,000 kg diamond sugar, 2,000 kg bura sugar, 50 kg pista, 50 kg cardamom, 50 kg nutmeg (jaikai), mace (japatre), 50 kg edible camphor (pachha karpoora) and 200 kg cloves (lavanga)," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Temple Administrator Srinivasan said the laddus will be distributed from 4 am to 11 am on Jan. 1 and added that Food and Safety Department officials had inspected the quality of laddus.

He also mentioned that CCTV cameras have been installed in the kitchen to monitor the preparation process and separate entry facilities would be provided for men, women, senior citizens and physically disabled persons.

"Late Thespian Dr. Rajkumar donated Rs. 1,000 during his visit to the Temple in 1994, requesting that laddus resembling those from Tirupati be prepared. From starting with just 1,000 laddus, we have now grown to distribute two lakh laddus," he said. He added that special puja rituals on Jan. 1 will commence at 4 am, followed by the distribution of laddus.

Youth dies of electrocution at Nanjangud taluk

S. Mahesh

Nanjangud, Dec. 26- In a tragic incident, a 28-year-old youth died of electrocution at Hemmaragala in Nanjangud taluk on Thursday.

The deceased youth has been identified as S. Mahesh (28), son of Somanna, a local BJP leader.

Mahesh was cleaning his car near his farmhouse in Hemmaragala, when he accidentally trampled upon a fallen live wire and died of electric shock, it is learnt.

He leaves behind his grandmother, parents, a brother, a sister, wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at his native village this afternoon, according to family sources.

Centenarian dies

Lingappa

Nanjangud, Dec. 26- Centenarian Lingappa *(Paradeshi Lingappa)* passed away at Hulimavu in Nanjangud taluk yesterday.

The 100-year-old is survived by his wife Chinnamma, 4 sons, including former Hulimavu Gram Panchayat President H.L.Somashekar and Hulimavu Milk Producers Co-operative Society Director H.L. Shivakumar, 2 daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

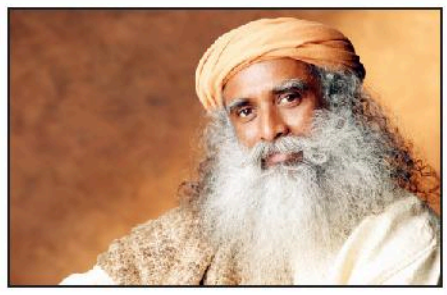
Last rites were performed at Hulimavu this afternoon, according to family sources.

Unidentified body found

Mysuru, Dec. 26- The body of an unidentified man, aged about 55 years, was found among the bushes along the Second Cross Road in Rajivnagar First Stage coming under Udayagiri Police Station limits, on the morning of Dec.22. The body has been kept at the MMC&RI mortuary.

The kith and kin of the deceased, if any, can contact the Udayagiri Police [0821-2418309].

MYSTIC'S MUSINGS



By Sadhguru - Founder, Isha Foundation

The recipe for a... HAPPY MARRIAGE 5 ingredients

1. Take Two "Heartfuls" of Love

The English expression, "Falling in love," is significant because you don't rise in love, you don't fly in love, you don't walk in love, you don't stand in love. You fall in love, because something of who you are has to go. It essentially means someone else has become far more important than yourself. Only if you don't think too much of yourself, you can be in love. When what you consider as "me" falls, a deep experience of love can happen within you.

2. Add a Liberal Dose of Understanding

The closer the relationship with someone is, the more effort you should make to understand them. Someone becomes closer and dearer to you only as you understand them better. If they understand you, they enjoy the closeness of the relationship. If you understand them better, then you enjoy the closeness. If you are expecting the other to understand and comply with you all the time while you don't understand the limitations, possibilities, needs and capabilities of that person, then conflict is all that will happen.

In everyone, there are some positive and some negative aspects. If you embrace all this in your understanding, you can make the relationship the way you want it. If you leave it to their understanding, it will become accidental. If they are very magnanimous, things will happen well for you. If not, the relationship will break up. It is not that the other person is totally bereft of understanding. With your understanding you can create situations where the other person would be able to understand you better.

3. Work On It A Little

A marriage is not an absolute thing that you can do once and forget. It is an active partnership. Two separate people have chosen to come together for a common purpose and build a life together, live joyfully and multiply their well-being. Two human beings weaving their lives into one has a certain beauty.

In Indian culture, a marriage was renewed once a year just to remind you why you came together. It is a fresh marriage again on that day. Otherwise, you think you have been stuck in this forever. No. You came together consciously and you have to conduct it consciously too.

4. Warm It Up With Some Joy

If relationships have to be really beautiful, it is very important that a human being turns inward and looks at himself in a very deep way before he looks at someone else. If you become a source of joy by yourself and your relationships are about sharing your joy, you would have wonderful relationships with anyone.

Is there anyone in the world who would have any problem with you if you are going there to share your joy with them? No. If you want to experience the profoundness of being with another human being, your marriage should never be about you — it should always be about the other person. If both of you think like this, your marriage will not be an arrangement, it will be a union.

5. Offer It To Each Other

If your marriage is just a bundle of expectations about how to extract happiness out of someone who should make heaven for you, you will be disappointed. They say marriages are made in heaven. They say that because most people created a hell out of their marriage!

If your relationship is about extracting something out of someone, it does not matter how much you manage, there will be constant trouble. But if your relationship was an offering to the other person, then everything would be fantastic.

[Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, a yogi, is a visionary, humanitarian and a prominent spiritual leader. An author, poet and internationally-renowned speaker, Sadhguru's wit and piercing logic provoke and widen our perception of life. www.ishafoundation.org]

Workshop on Defence Journalism held

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Alpha Lead Academy, a prestigious Defence Department Training Centre in the district, had organised a Defence Journalism workshop recently.

In this event, Group Captain Abhinav Chaturvedi (Retd.), a former Air Force Officer and Founder of Alpha Lead Academy, spoke about the problems faced by reporters while reporting news for defence sector, the important role played by the journalists in reporting defence-related news and disseminating information to the public.

Speaking further, he explained that post-operation briefing, official statements, defence sector awareness and career and training values and leadership are safe while reporting.

Going on air live while operations are going, revealing guard posts, surveillance equipment, showing hangars and runways to public on visual media, showing control rooms and vehicle number plates and broadcasting to the public on TV media and social media should be avoided.

Questions during the interview should be about leadership, training, life lessons, motivation and values of the services and not about operations, intelligence, future deployment and weapon system.

Information about the Indian Armed Forces can be obtained from official sources like Army ADGPI, Indian Air Force Public Relations Director, Indian Navy Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Moreover, he told all the journalists who participated in the workshop that columns and news can be made by getting information from ex-servicemen unofficially, with the help of official thinkers. He announced that the best article or a column will be awarded twice yearly with a cash prize and an award in the name of "Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Best Defence Journalist."

Dr. Mamata Vishwanath, Swati M. Shet, Nisha and Manikanta were present in this workshop.

Karnataka Janapada Academy awardees

Chennajamma *Honnaiah* *Basavaraju* *Yogendra* *Ammanni*

Mysuru, Dec. 26 - A total of 30 artistes from 30 districts in State have been selected for the prestigious Karnataka Janapada Academy awards. The awardees include: Chennajamma of Mysuru (Sobane Pada and Folk songs), Honnaiah of Mandya (Kolata), Yogendra Dudda of Hassan (Gigi Pada, Lavani and Bhajan), Basavaraju of Chamarajanagar (Gorukana Nrithya) and Ammanni of Kodagu (Solagitti and Kudiya Community Songs).

Two persons have been selected for Folklore Expert (Janapada Tagna) award and two others for Book Award.

The annual award includes a prize money of Rs. 25,000 each, Rs. 50,000 for Folklore Expert Award and Rs. 25,000 each for Book Award.

Dr. Immam Saheb Hadagali's 'Kanakagiri Seemeya Sthala Naamagalu' and Dr. Meerasabihalli Shivanna's 'Kaadugollara Samskruthi Mathu Kavyagalu' have been selected for Book Award-2024.

Musical troupes mesmerise crowd

'Phala-Pushpa Geetha Gaana' was presented by P. Akash and team at the Palace premises last evening as part of the ongoing Cultural Programmes of Winter Festival - Flower Show organised by Mysore Palace Board. Picture right shows 'Sangeetha Gaanamrutha' being rendered by playback singer Vasuki Vaibhav and troupe.

A section of the audience at Mysore Palace premises last night.

Kathak, Bharatanatyam enthral audience at Nirantara Kalemane Fest

Vidu. Seema Krishnan of Krishnam Performing Arts Academy, Bengaluru and her disciples presenting Kathak performance at the 66th International Nirantara Kalemane Festival of Kumar Performing Arts Centre (KPAC), Mysuru, at Kalemane Sabhaangana in Hebbal 2nd Stage on Dec. 21. Picture right shows Dr. Radhika Kalluray of Radhika's Academy of Performing Arts and her disciples presenting Bharatanatyam on the occasion.

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Nadavidyalaya - Academy of Music and Dance, Hebbal, Mysuru, has organised Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of A. Rakshitha (daughter of B.R. Anantha Kumar and A.K. Gayathri), disciple of Vidu. Mithra Naveen, at Jaganmohan Palace auditorium in city on Dec. 27 at 5.30 pm.

Prof. Nagesh V. Bettakote, Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University Mysuru, Natyacharya Prof. K Ramamurthy Rao, Karnataka Rajyotsava Awardee -2025 & Artistic Director of Noopura Kalavidaru Trust, Mysuru, Ravi Shastri, Vice-President of Sri Krishna Dhama, Mysuru & President of Mysuru Hotel Owners Association Trust, will be the guests of honour.

Guru Vidushi Mithra Naveen will be felicitated in Guru Vandanam. Programme direction, Choreography, Nattuvangam will be by Vidushi Mithra Naveen, Vidwan Naveen M. S Andagar on vocal, Vidwan Vivek Krishna on flute and Vidwan G.S Nagaraj on mridanga will accompany Rakshitha. Dr. Bhuvaneshwari will compere.

Profile: A. Rakshitha has been learning dance in Nadavidyalaya for the past 15 years and continues to learn till date, under the guidance of Vidu. Mithra Naveen. She has completed her Junior and Senior exams under KSEEB, and Pre-Vidwat exam from Music University, Mysuru.

A. Rakshitha

Alongside dance, she is trained in classical music under Vid. M.S. Naveen, completing her Junior level and learnt all 18 Adhyayas of Bhagavad Gita under Sobha Ananda Rajan at Suraksha Foundation, Mysuru, enriching her spiritual and artistic foundation.

A former student of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) School and Vijaya Vittala Composite PU College, she later earned her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW), Mysuru.

She is currently employed as Software Engineer at Lowe's Services India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

Dance-drama commemorates 112 years of Tagore's Nobel Prize

Mysuru, Dec. 26- Marking 112 years since Rabindranath Tagore became the first Indian and the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, a special dance-drama was presented on Dec. 10 at the Indian Institute of Educational Theatre (IIET), Mysuru.

The commemorative performance was conceptualised, curated and organised by M.R. Srividya, offering a soulful artistic tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's timeless literary and philosophical legacy. The production explored themes of humanism, spirituality, freedom and universal harmony that form the core of Tagore's works.

The music for the dance-drama was composed by Mandolin Prasad, blending classical depth with emotive resonance. The performance featured live singing by Nitin Rajaram Shastri and Amrita Nitin Shastri, adding vitality and authenticity to the presentation.

The dancers — Navyata, Shreya, Anusha, Roopashri, Jyoti and M.R. Srividya — brought Tagore's vision to life through expressive movement and evocative abhinaya.

The programme stood as a meaningful cultural homage, celebrating Tagore's enduring relevance and his contribution to world literature.

Encouraged by the response to the December presentation, a repeat show of this dance-drama is planned for the first week of February, with further refinement and enhanced artistic elements, making it an even richer experience.

WORD OF THE DAY

Noel

Pronunciation: noh-EL (noun).
Meaning: When capitalised, Noel refers to Christmas or the Christmas season. Uncapitalised, noel refers to a Christmas carol.
Origin: English speakers borrowed noel from the French word noël, which is also used for both the Christmas holiday and a Christmas carol. It can be traced further back to the Latin word natalis, which can mean "birthday" as a noun or "of or relating to birth" as an adjective. (The English adjective natal has the same meaning and is also an offspring of natalis.) Noels were being sung in Latin and French for centuries before English-speakers started using the word to refer to Christmas carols in the 18th century. An early use of noel (spelled Nowel) to mean "Christmas" can be found in the text of the late 14th-century Arthurian legend Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.
Example: "The meeting began with a touch of holiday spirit as members of the Woodland Park High School Madrigals sang three selections. The first was a Noel song with a medieval/renaissance feel that was well matched to their festive costumes. They followed with the popular 'Carol of the Bells' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas.'" — Doug Fitzgerald, The Pikes Peak (Colorado) Courier, 9 Dec. 2024.

THE ODD WORD

Qanat

Underground tunnel for carrying irrigation water.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Apple of my eye

Meaning: The phrase 'Apple of my eye' is used to describe someone who is highly cherished by you.
Origin: The expression 'Apple of my eye' is ancient. It was first known to have appeared in Old English in an 885 book titled Gregory's Pastoral Care, a work attributed to King Aelfred the Great of Wessex.
Example: "I just love Jessie. She's the apple of my eye."

QUOTE BOX

Christmas is the day that holds all time together. **—Alexander Smith**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer :Crystal clear.

SUDOKU

5						4	9	2
6			8					
4				9	3			
		1		3			8	
		3	7		5	9		
	5			6		3		
			3	2				6
					9			5
1	4	6						9

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	3	8	4	7	6	2	5
2	7	8	9	5	6	3	1	4
4	5	6	3	1	2	8	7	9
8	4	9	5	7	3	2	6	1
6	2	5	1	8	9	7	4	3
7	3	1	2	6	4	9	5	8
3	8	4	6	2	1	5	9	7
1	9	2	7	3	5	4	8	6
5	6	7	4	9	8	1	3	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

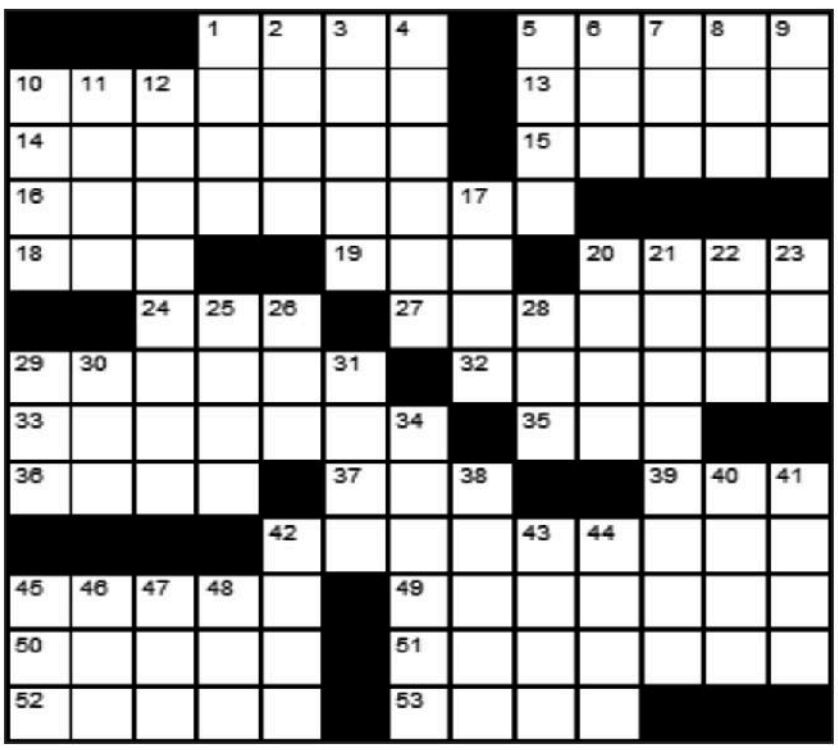
1 The Pied Piper got rid of them
5 Colin ____ : ex-West Indies paceman?
10 Royal emblems?
13 Assistants or helpers
14 RAF landing base
15 Cowboy competition
16 Impose as a guide
18 Three-way joint used in fitting pipes together
19 Airspeed Indicator
20 Largest continent
24 Pitch
27 US civil officer
29 Rinses or flushes out; drinks greedily
32 Lying on the back
33 After sunset today?
35 Mean Sea Level, abbr.
36 Venetian magistrate
37 American Helicopter Society
39 Unrefined in character
42 French author of Nana and Germinal? (5,4)
45 List of contents
49 Classifications according to grade
50 La ____: Milan opera house
51 Temporary
52 Non-literal expression
53 Double digits

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

		E	M	I			A	T	M			
	T	R	E	V	I		T	R	U	M	P	
T	A	R	T	A	N		L	Y	S	O	L	
B	R	I	A	N	D		A	S	T	R	A	L
D	E	S		H	O	I	S	T		A	C	E
			N	O	O	N			S	L	I	T
	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	T	E	D	
S	T	A	B			E	A	S	Y			
E	M	T		P	U	T	U	P		C	E	P
T	O	T	A	L	S		N	I	G	H	T	S
	S	E	R	A	I		T	R	E	A	T	Y
	T	R	A	I	N		S	E	N	S	E	
		T	T	G			D	E	E			

DOWN

1 Cheering words
2 Ex-English wicket keeper Stewart
3 Jewelled head-dress
4 Deliberate cruelty
5 Worry about
6 SA river ___ Grande
7 Strange
8 Admission charge ?
9 Tech. Std. Order
10 Engrossed
11 Another name for Ireland
12 Salutation
17 Partiality
20 "Pass" anagram for snakes
21 Capital of Meghalaya
22 Bond creator Fleming
23 A drink similar to beer
25 Tell __ ___ : fib? (1,3)
26 Ring Laser Gyro
28 Peculiar
29 Standard in short?
30 Court
31 Counterfeit
34 Craving for drink
38 A clean ___ : no discreditable history?
40 Russian gymnast __ Korbut
41 Stinging insect with black and yellow stripes
42 School test
43 Famous school
44 Scurries or dashes through
45 Pakistan's intelligence agency
46 A corporate debt instrument in short
47 Death from accidental injuries, abbr.
48 "Rockaria!" band



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

KUVY SYUSFY EKY UMY JPFG UG HJYBL BMCYMEBHQ HU CYH

BMHU IYTH, PMI HJY UHJYL JPFG HU PAUBI SPQBMC BH.

TODAY'S CLUE: C EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.

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  Vrusshabha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Kantara: A Legend Chapter - 1 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Dhurandhar (H) - 3 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

Mark (K)	(S-1)	6.30 am
	(S-2)	6.30 am
	(S-3)	6.30 am
	(S-4)	6.30 am, 10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm,
Dhurandhar (H)	(S-1)	10 am, 6.05 pm, 10.05 pm
Avatar: Fire & Ash (E-3D)	(S-1)	2.10 pm
	(S-2)	9.35 am
45 (K)	(S-2)	1.30 pm
	(S-3)	4.10 pm
	(S-4)	10 pm
Sirai (Ta)	(S-2)	4.35 pm
Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri (H)	(S-2)	7.20 pm
Champion (Te)	(S-2)	10.15 pm
The Devil (K)	(S-3)	12.50 pm
Anaconda (E)	(S-3)	7.15 pm
Sarvam Maya (Ma)	(S-3)	9.45 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

45 (K)	:	10.15 am, 1.15 pm, 4.10, 7.05 pm, 10 pm
Vrusshabha (Ma)	:	11 am
Avatar: Fire and Ash (K)	:	12.20 pm, 6.10 pm
Mark (K)	:	1 pm, 4 pm, 6.50 pm, 9.45 pm
The Devil (K)	:	1.35 pm
Anaconda (E)	:	4.05 pm
Dhurandhar (H)	:	4.50 pm, 9.15 pm
Sarvam Maya (Ma)	:	9.50 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

Dhurandhar (H)	:	8.10 am, 11.50 am, 3.30 pm 6.05 pm, 10.30 pm
Mark (K)	:	8.45 am, 9.55 am, 12.40 pm 4.05 pm, 6.50 pm, 10.15 pm
Avatar: Fire & Ash (E-3D)	:	9.10 am, 3.25 pm, 9.40 pm
Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri (H)	:	9.30 am, 3.05 pm, 10.20 pm
45 (K)	:	9.35 am, 12.25 pm, 3.45 pm 7.10 pm, 9.55 pm
Champion (Te)	:	12.30 pm
Anaconda (E)	:	1.10 pm, 7.25 pm
The Devil (K)	:	3.55 pm
Sarvam Maya (Ma)	:	7.20 pm
Vrusshabha (Ma)	:	7.45 pm
Sirai (Ta)	:	10.25 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

45 (K)	:	9.05 am, 12.10 pm, 7.15 pm 10 pm
Dhurandhar (H)	:	9.05 am, 3.10 pm, 5.55, 10.30 pm
Mark (K)	:	9.05 am, 12.05 pm, 2.50 pm 7.25 pm, 10.10 pm
Anaconda (E)	:	9.35 am, 4.45 pm
Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri (H)	:	11.50 am, 7 pm
The Devil (K)	:	1.20 pm
Avatar: Fire and Ash (E-3D)	:	3.15 pm, 10.20 pm

EVENTS TODAY (DEC. 26)

- **Mysore Palace Board:** Winter Festival - Flower Show, Palace premises, **up to 9 pm;** Palace illumination, **7 pm to 9 pm.**
- **SaPaSa Sangeetha Vidyalaya, Mysuru, Akhila Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Samsthe Okkuta, Bengaluru and Kannada & Culture Department, Bengaluru:** Bhavabhiyaana - Bhavageete programme led by Purushotham Kiragasur, Music University, JLB Road, **4 pm.**
- **Dr. Chandrashekar's Cauvery Ayurveda Research and Development (CCARD), a dedicated wing of Cauvery Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Mysuru and Maharaja Institute of Ayurveda Medical Sciences College and Hospital, Mandya:** Inauguration of 2-day International Conference on 'Intersecting Nutrition, Lifestyle Medicine and Sustainable Health Care,' Dr. Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Mutt graces the occasion, former Dy.CM Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan chief guest, RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr. B.C. Bhagavan presides, SDM Institute of Management Development (SDM-IMD) campus, Chamundi Hill Road, **5 pm.**
- **Parampare:** Bhajans/ Devaranama by students of Ganabharathi School of Music, Kuvempunagar; Dr. Veena Bannanje delivers lecture on 'Srimad Bhagavatha,' Mysore Vasudevacharya Bhavana, JLB Road, **6 pm.**
- **Ganabharathi, Mysuru:** Western Classical Music Concert in memory of Vid. Swaramurthy V.N. Rao, saxophone recital by Vid. Arokya Swamy, accompanied by Arogyaraj on keyboard, Balasubramanyam & Amogh on piano, Vincent on drums and Anand on clarinet, Ganabharathi, **6 pm.**
- **Rangayana, Mysuru:** Staging of play 'Vigada Vikramaraya' by students of Bharatiya Rangashikshana Kendra, written by Samsa and directed by Saliyan Umesh Narayan, Vanaranga, Rangayana premises, **6.30 pm.**
- **Nirdiganta and Heritage House, Mysuru:** Staging of the play *Madonna*, Heritage House, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, **6.30 pm.**
- **Hotel Mayura Hoysala, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC):** Christmas celebrations, Sea Food Aahara Mela, Hotel premises, JLB Road, near Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle, **7 pm to 10.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (DEC. 27)

- **Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple of Melukote Yadugiri Yatiraj Mutt, Mysuru Branch:** Dhanurmasa Puja, Temple premises, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 am to 10 am and 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.**
- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Mysuru Branch (SIRC):** Inauguration of SIRC Sub-Regional Conference - 2025 on 'Practice Powerhouse - Strategies to Scale,' B.K. Srinidhi, Group CFO, APAR Technologies, Singapore, chief guest, Technical Sessions, **9 am to 5 pm;** Valedictory programme, Hotel Southern Star, **6.30 pm.**
- **Mysore Palace Board:** Winter Festival - Flower Show, Palace premises, **10 am to 9 pm;** Palace illumination, **7 pm to 9 pm.**
- **Karnataka Janapada Academy, Bengaluru:** Sharanende Bhoomi Tayige, folklore expert Dr. P.K. Rajashekar inaugurates, Karnataka Janapada Academy President Dr. Gollahalli Shivaprasad presides, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **10.30 am.**
- **Sandya Suraksha Trust, Jilla Brahmana Mahasabha and Shakambari Dharmika Kendra:** Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary and Sandya Suraksha Trust's 18th calendar release programme, MLAs T.S. Srivatsa and G.T. Devegowda, Journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar will be present, Shakambari Dharmika Kendra, Devaiahnahundi Main Road, Hunsremara Stop, **10.30 am.**
- **Dr. Chandrashekar's Cauvery Ayurveda Research and Development (CCARD), a dedicated wing of Cauvery Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Mysuru and Maharaja Institute of Ayurveda Medical Sciences College and Hospital, Mandya:** Valedictory of 2-day International Conference on 'Intersecting Nutrition, Lifestyle Medicine and Sustainable Health Care,' Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji of Suttur Mutt graces the occasion, Srikshetra Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Padma Vibhushan Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade chief guest, Cauvery Group of Institutions (CGOI) Chairman Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar presides, SDM Institute of Management Development (SDM-IMD) campus, Chamundi Hill Road, **3 pm.**
- **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru:** Bhavanotsava, University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor Prof. N.K. Lokanath chief guest, BVB Mysuru Chairman Dr. C. Naganna presides, Open Air Theatre, Manasagangothri, **5 pm.**
- **Surabhi Ganakala Mandira Charitable Trust, Mysuru:** Yuva Sourabha monthly concert series by talented musicians of Karnataka, Vid. Raghunandan Vyasa Rao chief guest, 'Allied Ragas,' a thematic concert by Vid. Amith Nadig on flute, Vidu. Rakshitha Ramesh on veena, Vid. Sunaada Krishna Amai on mridanga and Skanda Manjunath on ghata, Sri Bidaram Krishnappa's Rama Mandira, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Raghavendra Seva Samiti:** Dasavani programme by Vid. Raichur Sheshagiri Das, Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Nadavidyalaya - Academy of Music and Dance:** Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of A. Rakshitha (daughter of B.R. Anantha Kumar and A.K. Gayathri), disciple of Vidu. Mithra Naveen, Jaganmohan Palace, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Ganasabha:** Staging of comedy play 'Muddanna's Promotion Prasanga' by Rangananda Kala Sangha, Mysuru, in memory of Byadarahalli Subbaraje Urs, directed by *Kalavallabha* Rangaswamy; former KSOU VC Dr. N.S. Ramegowda inaugurates, Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works Managing Trustee M. Jagannath Shenoy chief guest, Sri Krishna Ganasabha President B.S. Sridhararaj Urs presides, Alwar Kala Bhavana, Gokulam 3rd Stage, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust:** Vocal concert by Vid. Manasa Nayana, accompanied by Vid. S.N. Narasimhan on violin, Vid. H.L. Shivashankar Swamy on mridanga and Vid. S. Manjunath on ghata, Sri Rama Mandira, Jayanagar, **6 pm.**
- **Parampare:** Bhajans/ Devaranama by Savigana Dasavani, Ramakrishnanagar I-Block; Dr. Veena Bannanje delivers lecture on 'Srimad Bhagavatha,' Mysore Vasudevacharya Bhavana, JLB Road, **6 pm.** [Mob: 99860-37311]
- **Nirdiganta and Heritage House, Mysuru:** Staging of the play *Madonna*, Heritage House, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, **6.30 pm.**
- **Rangayana, Mysuru:** Staging of play 'Vigada Vikramaraya' by students of Bharatiya Rangashikshana Kendra, written by Samsa and directed by Saliyan Umesh Narayan, Vanaranga, Rangayana premises, **6.30 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysuru:** Swami Ishtanathanandaji will speak on 'Kaivalyopanishad' in English, Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm to 6.50 pm.**

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri (H)	:	9 am, 4.15 pm
45 (K)	:	9.05 am, 11.55 am, 7.15 pm, 10.20 pm
Mark (K)	:	9.35 am, 9.40 am, 4.50 pm 6.55 pm, 10.10 pm
Dhurandhar (H)	:	12.10 pm, 6.25 pm, 10.30 pm
Anaconda (E)	:	12.40 pm, 7.55 pm
Avatar: Fire and Ash (E)	:	12.50 pm
Avatar: Fire and Ash (E-3D)	:	2.55 pm, 10 pm
The Devil (K)	:	3 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

Mark (K)	:	9.15 am, 3.20 pm, 7.05 pm, 10.10 pm
Dhurandhar (H)	:	9.20 am, 12.45 pm, 6.25, 10.30 pm
45 (K)	:	9.40 am, 12.10 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.15 pm
Anaconda (E)	:	9.55 am, 4.50 pm
Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri (H)	:	12.20 pm, 7.15 pm
Mindiyum Paranjum (Ma)	:	1.25 pm
Avatar: Fire and Ash (E-3D)	:	3.15 pm, 10.20 pm
Vrusshabha (Ma)	:	4.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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SUBBAPPA S/o Late Somappa	195/2	01	25	Sy.No.194/1 & 193	Sy.No.195/1	Sy.No.198/7	Sy.No.193
	196/1	00	08	Sy.No.195/1	Sy.No. 196/2	Sy.No. 197/2	Sy.No.193
NINGAPPA S/o Siddappa	199/1	01	02	Sy.No.199/3 & 199/4	Sy.No.198/4 & 198/5	Sy.No.200	Sy.No.199/2
MADAPPA S/o Siddappa	199/3	01	01	Sy.No.193	Sy.No.199/1 & 199/2	Sy.No.199/4	Sy.No.193
MALLESH S/o Guruswamappa	202/1	03	11	Sy.No.202/2	Sy.No.214/1, 215/1 & 215/3	Private Property	Sy.No.201/2 & 193
	203/3	01	00	Road & Sy.No.193	Sy.No.202/2	Sy.No.204/3 & Govt Land	Sy.No. 203/1
	214/1	00	16	Sy.No.202/1	Halla & Sy.No.214/2	Sy.No.213/1 & 213/3	Sy.No.215/1
	215/2	02	08	Sy.No.215/1 & 215/3	Sy.No.215/1 &215/3	Sy.No.214/4, 214/2 & Halla	Sy.No.201/1
	215/3	01	26	Sy.No.202/1	Sy.No.215/2	Sy.No.215/1	Sy.No.201/1 & 201/2
MALLIGAMMA W/o Panchakshari SIDDAMALLAMMA W/o Shivappa	216/2	00	25	Sy.No.2015/2	Government Road	Goverment Halla	Sy.No.217/2 & 201/1
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